

appreciated the differences in this insect and remarked on them, no one, unfortunately, took up the matter on his behalf at that time. The recent specimens, which were obtained by Messrs. Braine and Bampton, were submitted to the writer by Mr. W. H. Henning. Mr. Bampton reared a few of them from eggs or larvae found in Mr. Braine's garden, in Kombat, on the parasitic plant *Loranthus*, nearly all the members of the *Iolais* group, in the broad sense, being known to use species of *Loranthus* as their foodplants. Mr. Henning suggested the present butterfly being named after Mrs. Pamela Braine, in recognition of her interest in the butterflies of her district, and the *Epamera* in particular. The writer is indebted to Dr. Elliot Pinhey of the National Museum of Rhodesia for the loan of specimens of *E. mimosae rhodosense*.

*Poecilmitis bamptoni* spec. nov.

Although at first sight this strikingly beautiful member of the *Poecilmitis thysbe* (L.) group appears to be very distinct from *thysbe* itself, there is some little doubt as to its true status owing to the existence of what might appear to be transitional forms in various localities further down the coast, southwards of Hondeklip Bay, in which locality the butterfly concerned occurs in profusion. It is nevertheless so constant in its principal characters and so different from *thysbe* proper—the male especially so—that, in the light of similar situations in which it is known that separate species are involved, there seem very good grounds for believing that speciation has in fact taken place in its own case. Subspecific status would not appear to be correct under the circumstances.

The male is at once separable from that of *P. thysbe* by the more extensive, solid silvery-blue in all wings (more markedly and consistently so in the forewings), the small but distinct white spaces in the cilia of the forewings, without any orange marking either in the cilia or on the adjacent wing-surface, and by the more even distal margins in which there is less obvious "elbowing". On the hindwing underside characteristic features are also apparent, with some of the silvery lituræ very prominent and well defined and others tending to be more blurred, but these markings in general contrasting exceptionally well with the background of the wing, which is not as finely variegated as that of typical *thysbe* (as distinct from f. *osbecki* Aurivillius); although there is a large patch of a darker shade before the middle of the wing and another in its outer portion rather towards the upper angle, as well as similar darkening towards the anal-angle. There is sometimes a suggestion of an olivaceous tone on the hindwing underside and on the darker submarginal area of the forewing underside.

(To be continued)

THE LARGE TORTOISESHELL (NYMPHALIS POLYCHLOROS L.) IN KENT IN 1976. — On 14th September, I discovered on my front door a female *N. polychloros*. It is in perfect condition and has already gone into hibernation. — G. H. YODEN, 18 Castle Avenue, Dover, 15.ix.1976.